LIBRARY

HEALTH
A 31MAR1944
C.R. 37

Bromyard Rural District

HEREFORDSHIRE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1942

LEOMINSTER PRINTING CO., LTD., 27, DRAPERS LANE, LEOMINSTER.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. (On War Service from 17/7/42)
Acting Medical Officer of Health (Deputy County Medical Officer)	I. F. MACKENZIE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Area Medical Offices : 4, Church Street, Leominster (Tel., Leom. 95)

Clerk in Northern Area Medical Office	B. J. SCANDRETT (On War Service from 1939)
Temporary Clerk	MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (Part-time)	T. S. WATTS, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Insp.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the Year 1942.

It has been drawn up in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry that the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health may be interim during the period of the war emergency.

My duties as Acting Medical Officer, which commenced on 17th July, 1942, on the departure of your Medical Officer of Health for service with H.M. Forces, have been rendered less onerous by the ready and efficient assistance which has been given me throughout the year by your Sanitary Inspector. It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to him.

I would like to place on record also my appreciation of the painstaking manner in which the clerk in the Area Office has discharged her duties.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

I. F. MACKENZIE,
Acting Area Medical Officer.

November, 1943.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in acres)	61,000
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to the Rate Book	2,018
Rateable Value	£16,582
Sum represented by a penny rate	£76 5 0

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of estimated population	16.9
STILLBIRTHS. Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	69.9
DEATH RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population	13.3

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:

No deaths attributable to puerperal infection occurred during 1942. There was one death from other maternal causes.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under One year of Age:—

There were five deaths of infants under one year of age.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 37.5

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the County Health Laboratory, Hereford. During the year the laboratory came under the direct administration of the Medical Research Council as a war-time measure.

CLINICS.

There are no Clinics provided by the Authority.

The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at the County Council Hospital, Hereford.

I am indebted to Mr. T. S. Watts, Sanitary Inspection to the Council, for the following statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER : Sampling.

The Council has no Water Undertaking of its own. All supplies are privately owned and consist largely of wells. Routine samples are taken from time to time and at the request of users.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The only sewer vested in the Council is that serving Bishops Frome Village. The sewer outfall is at a ditch on the Ledbury/Bromyard road and has been the subject of a few complaints. The nuisance caused by the sewage has been abated by cleaning out the ditch, which is now receiving constant attention.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints of pollution have been received during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

There is no organised refuse collection in the District and no request for collection has been made.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

INSPECTIONS :	No. of Inspections	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices complied with
Housing and Public Health Acts	181	22	2	18
Factories	23	1	—	1
Dairies and Cowsheds	372	12	1	11
Schools	8	—	—	—
Water Supplies	32	8	1	7
Infectious Disease	20	—	—	—
Butchers' Shops	37	1	—	—
Complaints	8	8	—	7
Hop-pickers' Quarters	133	9	1	6

NOTICES ISSUED.

Informal	61
Statutory	5

DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Chimney Stacks	2	Drains re-laid	1
Roofs	11	New Drains	2
Gutters	2	New Sinks	8
Floors	12	New W.C. Pans	4
Drains cleared	2	Flushing Cisterns	4

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none within the area.

FACTORIES.

(a) With Mechanical Power.		(b) Without Mechanical Power.	
No. of Inspections	3	No. of Inspections	20
Notices served	1	Defects found	Nil
New P.C. provided	1		

CAMPING SITES.

Three camping sites in the District are licenced. A good water supply is laid on and adequate sanitary accommodation is provided. No complaints were received.

BED BUGS.

No reports of bed bug infestation were received.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	52
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	181
2.	Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, fit for human habitation	22

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serving of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

VAN DWELLINGS.—No cases of vans overstaying the statutory period were noted.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

Samples of Designated milk are taken quarterly on behalf of the County Council. One T.T. Licence and 22 Accredited Licences were issued by the County Council during the year.

Twenty-two cowsheds were repaired or improved during the year. 372 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Butchers' shops throughout the district were regularly inspected. Complaints concerning one shop were received and informal notices served on two occasions. The matter was brought to the notice of the Council and further action was pending at the close of the year.

FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

No foods were condemned during the year.

HOP-PICKERS' QUARTERS.

Fifty-five farms on which pickers were housed were inspected during the year. Preliminary inspection of some of the quarters disclosed defects, most of which were remedied after the service of informal notices. During the picking, the quarters were again inspected, and in three cases unsatisfactory conditions were found. In one case, the conditions were bad enough to justify reports to the Council. The grower concerned was instructed by the Council to remedy the defects before the next hop-picking season.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifications of Infectious Disease received during 1942 numbered 95, the majority of which were is respect of measles. There were 52 instances of this disease.

Fourteen cases of Scarlet Fever occurred and five persons suffered from Diphtheria during the period under review. All recovered satisfactorily.

The remainder of the notifications related to Pneumonia, Erysipelas and Whooping Cough. There were no cases of Puerperal Pyrexia nor of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE.

DISEASE	AGE OF PATIENT													
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	Over 40	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	4	5	1	—	—	2	14
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	5
Measles (inc. Rubella)	—	1	1	—	—	1	4	21	23	—	1	—	—	52
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	1	2	4	13
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	6
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The state of immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1942 is indicated in the table below.

Under 5 years of age		Between 5 and 15 years of age	
Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
169	35.36%	683	83.95%

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1942 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 10 males and 11 females who normally reside within the district. During the year three new cases were notified; two on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period four deaths of persons suffering from this disease occurred.